WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   An H.323 endpoint, comprising:

an H.323 controller configured to handle call and control signaling during a media communication with another H.323 endpoint via a gatekeeper or directly with another H.323 endpoint;

    wherein said H.323 controller provides a communication domain identifier for address resolution during a media communication, said communication domain identifier permitting use of virtual domains associated with a single gatekeeper based on said communication domain identifier or permitting use of virtual domains associated with multiple gatekeepers based on said communication domain identifier.

2.   An H.323 endpoint, in accordance with claim 1, wherein said H.323 controller is configured to use said CDI to determine a domain of a called party during an address resolution phase in a gatekeeper routed signaling mode.

3.   An H.323 endpoint, in accordance with claim 1, wherein said H.323 controller provides said gatekeeper with said CDI during an address resolution phase in a gatekeeper routed signaling mode

4.   An H.323 endpoint, in accordance with claim 1, wherein said H.323 controller is configured to use said CDI to determine a domain of one or more parties during execution of one or more domain-restricted functions.

5.   An H.323 endpoint, in accordance with claim 1, wherein said H.323 endpoint comprises a client terminal or gateway.

6.   A communication endpoint for use in a network comprising:

    a controller configured to handle call signaling during a media communication with another endpoint via a gatekeeper or directly with another endpoint;

    wherein said controller is configured to maintain a database for identifying

6　a virtual domain associated with a single gatekeeper or a virtual domain

7　associated with multiple gatekeepers.

1　7.　　A communications endpoint, in accordance with claim 6, wherein said
controller is configured to provide an identification of said virtual domain to said
gatekeeper during an address resolution phase.

1　8.　　A communications endpoint, in accordance with claim 6, wherein said

2　controller is configured to access said database for a virtual domain identifier in a

3　direct signaling mode.

1　9.　　A communications endpoint, in accordance with claim 6, wherein said

2　controller is configured to provide an identification of said virtual domain during

3　execution of one or more domain-restricted functions.

1　10.　A communications endpoint, in accordance with claim 7, wherein said

2　communications endpoint comprises a client terminal or a gateway.

1　11.　A telecommunications system, comprising:

2　　　　a packet-switched network;

3　　　　a plurality of endpoints coupled to said packet switched network;

4　　　　a gatekeeper coupled to said packet switched network;

5　　　　wherein predetermined numbers of said plurality of endpoints define

6　virtual domains associated with a same gatekeeper or virtual domains associated

7　with multiple gatekeepers.

1　12.　A telecommunications system according to claim 11, wherein said
endpoints include communication domain identification controllers for resolving
associated virtual domains during a call setup procedure

1　13.　A telecommunications system according to claim 11, wherein said

2   communication domain identification controllers include a database of

3   communication domain identifiers (CDI).

1   14.   A telecommunications system according to claim 13, wherein said

2   communication domain identification controllers are configured to provide said

3   CDIs to said gatekeeper during a call setup operation.

1   15.   A telecommunication system according to claim 13, wherein said

2   communication domain identification controllers are configured to use said CDIs

3   to resolve an address of a called party during a call setup operation.

1   16.   A telecommunications system according to claim 11, wherein said

2   endpoints include communication domain identification controllers for resolving

3   associated virtual domains during execution of one or more domain-restricted

4   functions.

1   17.   A method for operating a telecommunication system having at least one

2   gatekeeper and a plurality of endpoints, comprising:

3   storing a database of communication domain identifiers (CDI) in said

4   plurality of endpoints, said CDI identifying an association of said endpoints with a

5   virtual domain associated with one of said at least one gatekeeper; and

6   accessing said database to determine a CDI of a called party when a call

7   is made.

1   18.   A method according to claim 17, including providing said CDI to said

2   gatekeeper so said gatekeeper can resolve an address of a called party.

1   19.   A method according to claim 18, said storing including storing a CDI of a

2   plurality of users with a single endpoint.

1   20.   A method according to claim 17, further comprising executing one or more

2   domain-restricted functions based on said CDI gatekeepers or with a virtual

3   domain associated with multiple gatekeepers.

1   21.   A method according to claim 17, wherein said CDI identifies an

2   association of said endpoints with a virtual domain associated with multiple of

3   said at least one gatekeepers.